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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1489
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0288
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0987
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0047
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0112
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000701

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#) [IT](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS AGAINST GOT
POLICY

REF: STATE 36204

Classified By: PolCouns Janice G. Weiner, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

(C) We made reftel points on the release of Taliban prisoners to Turkish MFA Deputy Director General Sakir Torunlar on March 27. Torunlar stated unequivocally that GOT policy, whether at home or abroad, is not to negotiate with terrorists. This has been long-standing GOT policy across administrations. In Afghanistan, the release of the Taliban potentially puts ISAF troops at risk, including Turkey's. In addition to the USG concerns we outlined, Torunlar raised the specter of possible copycat actions by other terrorist groups. Such an exchange, he stated, would never be on the agenda in Turkey.

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